

Dr. Karan Powell



Dr. Karan Powell is Executive Vice President and Provost of American Public University System. She leads the academics department ensuring academic quality and online teaching effectiveness, focusing on student success, advocating for the faculty, and collaborating in the advancement of online instructional strategies and technology.

Dr. Powell holds a doctorate in education from George Mason University, with a specialization in organization development and organizational learning. She has more than 30 years of experience in learning, leadership development, organization performance enhancement, and transformation in education, non-profit, business, and government settings. Dr. Powell's work has special emphasis in learning at a distance,

evaluating equivalent work learning for college credit, online faculty workload, program review and evaluation, leadership development, system change, organization transformation, and spirituality in the workplace.

Prior to becoming provost in 2011, Dr. Powell served as the University System's interim chancellor in 2004, dean of the school of business, management and graduate studies in 2005, and Academic Dean from 2006 to 2011, advancing the academics department in areas of curriculum, programs and faculty.

Dr. Powell first joined the University System's Board of Trustees while chief learning officer for American Management Systems, a large business and information technology consulting firm. There, she transformed a traditional training department into a corporate university in less than a year, developed strategic partnerships with universities, designed and implemented an online corporate performance management system, and incorporated online learning into the corporate university.

Dr. Powell served as an adjunct faculty member at University of Phoenix Online, George Mason University, and University of Maryland University College. While at Georgetown University, she designed and taught leadership classes for the U.S. Senate, Verizon, and others. In addition to her doctorate, Dr. Powell holds a bachelor of science in business education from Western Illinois University and a master of divinity from Loyola University.

Dr. Powell completed the HERS Institute: Advancing Women in Higher Education Administration and the Harvard Institute for Educational Management, and is a member of the HERS board and a member of the board of Garrison Forest School (Baltimore, MD). She owns and has led Powell and Associates, an organization transformation and executive development consulting firm.